

680-083DYNAMICALLY PROGRAMMABLE DIGITAL ENTERTAINMENT TERMINALAbstract of the Disclosure

Dynamic programming of a digital entertainment terminal (DET) facilitates operation of the terminal to offer a variety of functionally different broadband services. The terminal can be reprogrammed, as-needed, for each different service offered by one or more information service providers. The terminal includes a network interface module which couples the terminal to a specific type of communication network for receiving a digital broadband channel and providing two-way control signaling communication between the terminal and the network. The terminal also includes a control processor with a program memory. The control processor receives user inputs and controls operations of the terminal and sending and receiving of control signals over the two-way control signaling channel. The program memory stores data received over the digital broadband channel as software executable by the control processor. The audio/video processor converts compressed, digital information received over the broadband channel into signals for driving an audio/video display device, such as a standard television set. The control processor executes the software received and stored in the memory to control subsequent operations of the terminal, including at least some operations of the audio/video processor and at least some responses to user inputs.